

# R.A. Briggs

rabriggs@uchicago.edu

University of Chicago

Department of Philosophy

1115 E. 58th St.

Chicago, IL 60637 Stanford, CA 94305

AOS: metaphysics, philosophy of gender, epistemology, decision theory

AOC: logic, philosophy of science

## Employment

2024-present	Professor, University of Chicago
2015-2024	Professor, Stanford University
2015	Associate Professor, University of Queensland
2012-2015	Research Fellow, Australian National University
2012-2014	Research Fellow, Griffith University
2011	Visiting Assistant Professor, New York University
2009-2012	Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Sydney

## Education

2009	PhD in Philosophy Massachusetts Institute of Technology Thesis: <i>Partial Belief and Expert Testimony</i> Supervisor: Robert Stalnaker
2003	BA in Philosophy Syracuse University <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>

## Grants and Fellowships

2023-2025	NEH Grant: Wise Women: A <i>Philosophy Talk</i> Series on Female Philosophers Through the Ages
2019-2020	Clayman Faculty Fellowship, Stanford University
2013-2015	ARC DECRA: Wellbeing, Preferences, and Basic Goods
2013-2015	ARC Discovery Project: Decision Theory in Crisis
2009-2011	University of Sydney Postdoctoral Fellowship
2009	Bersoff Fellowship, New York University (offered, not accepted)
2009	Canada Research Chair, University of British Columbia (offered, not accepted)
2003-2008	Presidential fellowship, MIT

## Books

2023	<i>What Even Is Gender?</i> (with B. R. George), Routledge.
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## Articles

forthcoming	“Sovereign: A Defense of the Modified Body”, <i>APA Studies on Feminism and Philosophy</i> .
2023	“Normative Theories of Rational Choice: Expected Utility Theory”, <i>The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> , updated.
2020	(with Richard Pettigrew) “An Accuracy-Dominance Argument for Conditionalization”, <i>Noûs</i> 54 (1), 162-181.

- 2019 “Conditionals”, *The Open Handbook of Formal Epistemology*, Jonathan Weisberg and Richard Pettigrew, 543-590.
- 2019 (with Graeme Forbes) “The Future, and What Might Have Been”, *Philosophical Studies* 176 (2), 506-535.
- 2018 “The Dominance Principle in Epistemic Decision Theory”, part of a symposium on Richard Pettigrew, *Accuracy and the Laws of Credence*, Oxford University Press *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 96 (3), 763-775.
- 2017 “Two Interpretations of the Ramsey Test”, *Making a Difference: Essays in Honour of Peter Menzies*, Helen Beebe, Chris Hitchcock, and Huw Price (eds.), Oxford University Press.
- 2017 “The Growing-Block: just one thing after another?” (with Graeme Forbes), *Philosophical Studies* 174 (4), 927-943.
- 2016 “Costs of Abandoning the Sure-Thing Principle”, part of a symposium of Lara Buchak, *Risk and Rationality*, Oxford University Press *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 45, 827-840.
- 2015 “The Foundations of Probability”, *Journal of Philosophical Logic*.
- 2015 “Utility Monsters for the Fission Age” (with Daniel Nolan), *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 96 (3), 307-441.
- 2015 “Why Lewisians Should Love Determinism About Chance”, *A Companion to David Lewis*, Barry Loewer and Jonathan Schaffer, 278-294.
- 2014 “Individual Coherence and Group Coherence” (with Fabrizio Cariani, Kenny Easwaran, and Branden Fitelson), *Essays in Collective Epistemology*, Jennifer Lackey (ed.), Oxford University Press, 215-239.
- 2014 “Normative Theories of Rational Choice: Expected Utility Theory”, *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
- 2012 “Epistemic Dispositions: Reply to Turri and Bronner” (with Daniel Nolan), *Logos & Episteme* 3 (4), 629-636.
- 2012 “The Real Truth About the Unreal Future” (with Graeme Forbes), *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics* 7, 257-302. Oxford Studies in Metaphysics Younger Scholars essay prize.
- 2012 “Truthmaking Without Necessitation”, *Synthese* 189 (1), special issue on Propositions and Same-Saying, 1-18.
- 2012 “Interventionist Counterfactuals”, *Philosophical Studies* 160 (1), 139-166.
- 2012 “Mad, Bad, and Dangerous to Know” (with Daniel Nolan), *Analysis* 72 (2), 314-316.
- 2012 “The Normative Standing of Group Agents”, part of a symposium on Christian List and Philip Pettit, *Group Agency*, Oxford University Press, *Episteme* 9 (3), 283-291.
- 2010 “The Metaphysics of Chance”, *Philosophy Compass* 5, 938-952.
- 2010 “Putting a Value on Beauty”, *Oxford Studies in Epistemology* 3, 3-34.
- 2010 “Decision Theoretic Paradoxes as Voting Paradoxes” *The Philosophical Review* 119 (1), 1-30. *Philosopher’s Annual* 2012.
- 2009 “The Anatomy of the Big Bad Bug”, *Noûs* 43 (3), 428-449.
- 2009 “Distorted Reflection”, *The Philosophical Review* 118 (1), 59-85. *Philosopher’s Annual* 2010.
- 2009 “The Big Bad Bug Bites Anti-Realists About Chance”, *Synthese* 167 (1), 81-92.

## Edited Volumes

2012 (with Mark Jago) *Synthese* 189 (1), special issue on Propositions and Same-Saying.

## Presentations

**‘How Do You Know What You Want?’**  
March 2024 Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Portland

**‘Science Fiction Double Feature: Trans Liberation on Twin Earth’**  
January 2024 Arizona State University  
April 2017 Works in Progress Seminar, MIT  
September 2016 Colloquium, University of Vermont

**Should Non-Monogamy Be Consensual?**  
February 2024 Austin J. Fagothey Memorial Conference, Santa Clara University  
November 2022 Philosophy and Non-Monogamies Conference, Pomona College

**Counterpossible Triviality, Potentiality, and Actuality**  
February 2024 Colloquium Cornell University  
May 2023 Colloquium, UCSD  
April 2023 Colloquium, University of Chicago

**Our Princess Is in Another Castle: There Is No Essence of Womanhood**  
October 2022 Colloquium, National University of Singapore  
September 2022 Olmsted Initiative for Ethics, Lafayette College

**What Even Is Gender Identity?**  
April 2022 Colloquium, UW Madison  
March 2022 Colloquium, University of Illinois, Chicago  
October 2021 Universitat de Barcelona Working Papers  
February 2021 Colloquium, University of Pittsburgh  
February 2020 Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Chicago

**What Kind of Question is ‘What Is Gender?’?**  
September 2021 MANCEPT Working Papers, University of Manchester

**What We Care About When We Care About Gender**  
March 2021 Philosophical Society, University of Birmingham

**Baby Logic?**  
September 2019 Rethinking Formal Methods in Philosophy, University of Minnesota

**What are the options?**  
June 2019 Formal Ethics Conference, Ghent

	<b>‘Characterizing Independence’</b>
May 2019	Princeton Talks on Epistemology and Metaphysics
March 2019	Colloquium, Texas A&M
August 2018	Workshop on Causal Modeling and Counterfactuals, Australian National University
	<b>‘Chance Functionalism’</b>
October 2018	Keynote, Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science, UC Boulder
	<b>‘Real-Life Newcomb Problems?’</b>
April 2018	Princeton Talks on Epistemology and Metaphysics
November 2017	UC San Diego, Colloquium
July 2017	Decision Theory and the Future of AI Conference, Cambridge, UK
	<b>Roundtable Participant at Probability and Perception Workshop</b>
March 2017	UC Berkeley
	<b>‘Epistemic Decision Theory and the Dominance Principle’</b>
November 2016	LPS Colloquium, UC Irvine
October 2016	Colloquium, UC Davis
October 2016	Colloquium, University of Michigan
October 2016	Colloquium, Carnegie Mellon
	<b>‘Lesbian Separatism: A Love-Hate Letter’</b>
December 2016	Metaphysics of Love Conference, UBC
	<b>‘The Value Individuation Problem’</b>
July 2016	SPAWN conference on Wellbeing, Syracuse University
	<b>‘Conditionals in Relevance Logic’</b>
May 2016	5th Annual CSLI Workshop, Stanford
	<b>‘Notes on Logical Omniscience’</b>
April 2016	Stalnakerfest, MIT
	<b>‘Chances of Impossibilities’</b>
September 2015	Colloquium, UC Berkeley
July 2015	Determinism, Probability, and Conditionals Workshop, ANU
June 2015	Propensities, Chances, and Statistics workshop, University College London
	<b>Peter Menzies Symposium</b>
July 2015	Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference (plenary session on the Consequence Argument, in honor of Peter Menzies)
	<b>‘The Liberal Paradox’</b>
March 2015	Research Seminar, University of New South Wales
February 2015	Australasian Workshop in Moral Philosophy, Kioloa (ANU)
	<b>‘An Accuracy-Dominance Argument for Conditionalization’</b>
January 2015	11th Annual MIT Philosophy Alumni Conference, MIT
August 2014	Colloquium, University of Queensland
April 2014	Colloquium, Princeton University

	<b>‘Costs of Abandoning the Sure-Thing Principle’</b>
April 2014	Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division (part of a book symposium on Lara Buchak’s <i>Risk and Rationality</i> )
	<b>“Fictionalism about Chance”</b>
June 2013	Formal Epistemology Festival, University of Toronto
May 2012	PERSP Metaphysics Workshop, Barcelona
May 2013	Formal Epistemology Workshop, Rutgers University
	<b>“Misinformed Desires”</b>
June 2013	Indeterminacy Workshop, University of Leeds
May 2013	Australian Metaphysics Workshop, Kioloa (ANU)
March 2013	Research Seminar, University of Sydney
February 2013	Research Seminar, Australian National University
	<b>“Undermining in Testimony and Theory”</b>
July 2012	Research Seminar, University of Canterbury
July 2012	Research Seminar, University of Otago
July 2012	Research Seminar, Victoria University of Wellington
July 2012	Research Seminar, University of Auckland
	<b>“The Future, and What Might Have Been”</b>
June 2012	Formal Epistemology Festival, Konstanz
May 2012	Research Seminar, University of Sydney
	<b>“Truth Tracking and Truthmaking”</b>
September 2011	Research Seminar, University of Queensland
	<b>“Why Lewisians Should Love Deterministic Chance”</b>
April 2011	NYU-Rutgers Epistemology Conference
November 2010	Australian National University
November 2010	Kioloa Metaphysics Workshop
	<b>“How to Disagree Consistently”</b>
February 2011	Colloquium, New York University
July 2010	Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, Sydney
	<b>“Interventionist Counterfactuals”</b>
September 2010	Formal Epistemology Workshop, Konstanz
August 2010	Linguistics Research Seminar, University of Queensland
May 2010	Decision and Causation Workshop, Sydney
May 2010	Research Seminar, Australian National University
December 2009	Causation and Humean Metaphysics Workshop, Sydney
October 2009	Research Seminar, Macquarie University
	<b>“Properties, Codes, and Counterfactuals”</b>
August 2010	Research Seminar, Charles Sturt University

	<b>“Truthmaking Without Necessitation”</b>
June 2010	Research Seminar, University of Melbourne
June 2010	Research Seminar, Monash University
	<b>“The Real Truth About the Unreal Future”</b>
September 2009	Research Seminar, University of Sydney
	<b>“Two Kinds of Truth in Expressivism”</b>
July 2009	Expressivism, Pragmatism, Representationalism (EPR2) Conference, Sydney
	<b>“Decision Theoretic Paradoxes as Voting Paradoxes”</b>
July 2009	Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, Melbourne
March 2009	Evidence, Science, and Public Policy Conference, Sydney
March 2008	Australian Postgraduate Philosophy Conference, Sydney
	<b>“Two Interpretations of the Ramsey Test”</b>
January 2009	Causation and Decision Theory Workshop, Centre for Time, University of Sydney
	<b>“The Anatomy of the Big Bad Bug”</b>
October 2008	Research Seminar, University of Queensland
October 2008	Research Seminar, University of Wollongong
June 2007	ANU-Sydney-Kyoto Probability Workshop, Sydney
	<b>“Putting a Value on Beauty”</b>
July 2008	Probability Workshop, Canberra
July 2006	Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, Australian National University
	<b>“Restricted Identity”</b>
July 2008	Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, Melbourne
	<b>“Dogmatism and Decisions”</b>
May 2008	Research Seminar, Australian National University
	<b>“Distorted Reflection”</b>
July 2007	Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, Armidale

## Media

2019-present	Co-host, <i>Philosophy Talk</i>
September 2023	What Even Is Gender?, <i>Friction</i> YouTube channel
March 2019	Words for Every Body, <i>Aeon</i> magazine
June 2018	Gender, <i>Elucidations</i> podcast
April 2018	Epistemic Decision Theory, <i>Elucidations</i> podcast
May 2017	Should Beliefs Aim at Truth?, <i>Philosophy Talk</i> radio
September 2015	Wellbeing, <i>The Philosopher’s Zone</i> , ABC radio
December 2014	Poetry, <i>Aesthetics for Birds</i> blog
October 2014	Truthmakers, <i>3CR Radio</i>

<b>Teaching</b>	<b>Stanford University</b>
Fall 2023	Proseminar (grad) (also Fall 2022)
Spring 2023	Mind, Matter, and Meaning (undergrad) (also Spring 2021)
Winter 2022	Decision Theory (undergrad/grad)
Winter 2022	Transfeminism (undergrad/grad) (also Winter 2021)
Spring 2021	Formal Epistemology (undergrad/grad)
Spring 2020	Formal and Traditional Epistemology (undergrad/grad, with Anna-Sara Malmgren)
Spring 2020	Computers, Ethics, and Society (undergrad, with Keith Winstein)
Winter 2020	Voting (grad)
Winter 2020	Knowing Nothing (freshman seminar) (also Fall 2017 and Winter 2016)
Spring 2019	Logic and Computability (undergrad)
Winter 2019	Dissertation Development Seminar (grad) (also Fall 2018)
Winter 2019	Metalogic (undergrad)
Fall 2018	Mathematical Logic (undergrad)
Spring 2018	Introduction to Formal Methods (undergrad) (also Winter 2015)
Winter 2018	Measurement Theory (grad) (also Fall 2015)
Fall 2017	Non-Classical Logic (undergrad) (also Winter 2016)
Spring 2017	Philosophy of Religion (undergrad)
Winter 2016	Formal Methods in Ethics (grad)
Winter 2015	Non-Classical Logic (undergrad)
	<b>University of Queensland</b>
Fall 2015	Critical Reasoning (undergrad)
	<b>Australian National University</b>
Spring 2014	Philosophy of Science (undergrad)
Spring 2012	Conditionals (grad, with Alan Hájek)
	<b>New York University</b>
Spring 2011	Philosophical Logic: Decision Theory (grad)
Spring 2011	Advanced Logic: Non-Classical Logic (undergrad)

## **University of Sydney**

Spring 2010      Decision Theory (grad)

## **University of Queensland**

Spring 2007      Philosophy of Modern Physics (undergrad, with Gerard Milburn)

## **Professional Service**

2023-2024	Director of Graduate Admissions, Stanford
2023-2024	Committee member, Philosophy Department search in Logic, Stanford
2022-2023	Chair, Philosophy Department hiring committee in ethics teaching, Stanford
2022-2023	Committee member, Philosophy Department tenure committee, Stanford
2022-2023	Philosophy Department admissions committee, Stanford
2020-2021	Chair, Philosophy Department tenure committee, Stanford
2019-2020	Interim Director of Undergraduate Studies, Stanford
2018-2019	Chair, Philosophy Department search in Social/Political Philosophy, Stanford
2017-2018	Chair, Philosophy Department reappointment committee, Stanford
2017-2018	Committee member, Philosophy Department search in Core, Stanford
2013-2023	Area editor (formal epistemology) for the <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>
2013-present	Area editor (metaphysics) for <i>Ergo: an Open Access Journal of Philosophy</i>
2016-2017	Committee member, Philosophy Department search in ethics, Stanford
2015-2017	Placement director, Stanford
2016	Committee member, Philosophy Department search in neuroethics, Stanford
2016	Curriculum committee, Stanford
2013-2015	Job Placement Officer, Australian National University
2012-2013	Organizer for Formal Epistemology Festival
2011-2013	Category editor for PhilPapers category ‘Decision Theory’
2010	Judge for Philosothon at Ascham High School
2010	Organized philosophy seminars at the University of Sydney
2010	Organized two workshops on “Propositions and Same-Saying” and one workshop on “The Metaphysics of Time”